
FY 2004 Performance Priorities for the Regions

AAship: OPPTS

(1) Performance Priority: National Program Chemicals and State/Tribal Grants Program

The Agency objective is, by 2007, significantly reduce the incidence of childhood lead poisoning and reduce risks associated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), mercury, dioxin, asbestos, and other chemicals of national concern.

Performance Data from the Regions:

Lead: In FY02, two more states agreed to accept the lead certification and training program
Over 35,000 individuals and firms were certified by EPA, the states, and the tribes to handle lead abatement projects (includes considerable duplication – for example, a person certified in three states will count as three people).
Nearly 500 separate outreach activities were held to inform landlords, tenants, etc. of the hazards of lead poisoning

PCBs: More than 11,000 PCB-containing transformers were disposed of
More than 25,000 PCB-containing capacitors were disposed of

Mercury

Dioxin: Thirty-six separate PBT projects were initiated by the Regions in FY02

Asbestos: The Regions provided information on AHERA responsibilities to schools with a total enrollment of over 1.3 million children.
Over 700 abatement workers were trained in courses audited by EPA.

Performance Expectations for Regions. In FY2004, continued Regional support is needed to ensure that (1) the lead program is administered in states/tribes that have not accepted the program, (2) accelerated disposal of PCB-containing transformers and capacitors continues unabated, (3) key partnerships with health and educational facilities continue to be developed, (4) a Strategic Plan for reducing exposure to dioxins is developed, and (5) local school systems are continually reminded of their obligations under AHERA. National '04 targets for this program are:

Lead: Certify 18,000 individuals for lead abatement activities

PCBs: Safely dispose of 8,000 PCB-containing transformers

Safely dispose of 6,000 PCB-containing capacitors

Hg: Develop partnerships with nine educational facilities and 25 hospitals

Asbestos: (No national target yet established)

(2) Performance Priority: Pollution Prevention Program Integration

Integration of pollution prevention into core Regional program operations. Utilize pollution prevention as a tool to meet Regional media specific program requirements. The goal is to focus a small percentage of media program efforts away from end-of-pipe treatment, to upstream prevention of pollution.

Performance Expectations for Regions:

1. 10% of permits issued by the states in the Region will contain P2 language
2. 10% of the inspections done by the states in the Region will be multimedia
3. 10% of Regional media specific STAG funds will be targeted toward source reduction
4. 10% of SEPs will include P2
5. 1 pilot annually with the Region to promote Environmentally Preferable Purchasing
6. Work with Federal Facilities to reduce TRI emissions under Executive Order 13101
7. Work with the states to report environmental performance data in a standardized format

(3) Performance Priority: FQPA/Strategic Agricultural Initiative (SAI) [including Worker Safety and Water Quality]

FQPA/SAI. The highest priority of the FQPA and the SAI is to reduce risk from pesticides initially in those foods consumed by infants and children. EPA regional staff identify alternatives to harmful pesticides and assist targeted groups in producing safer food. EPA is implementing model agricultural partnership projects that demonstrate and facilitate the adoption of farm management decisions and practices that provide growers with a reasonable transition away from the highest risk pesticides, such as organophosphates - those pesticides, uses or practices most likely to be lost through FQPA implementation.

Worker Safety. Regions and States will be maintaining integrated pesticide worker safety programs at a “base level” of attainment, and there will be consistent national reporting of annual accomplishments for documenting successful implementation of pesticide safety programs. Pesticide Worker Safety Programs include National Guidance for Pesticide Worker Safety Programs (Worker Protection, Pesticide Applicator Certification and Pesticides and National Strategies for Health Care Providers). Regions must commit to accomplishing these activities for effective pesticide worker safety program implementation.

Water Quality. Coordination will exist at the HQ, Regional and state and tribal levels, and among these levels of government on issues where pesticides and water intersect. All levels of government are working toward solutions to problems arising out of overlapping or conflicting authorities and programs, or arising out of the lack of authority or programs to address the issue. Regional offices provide OPP, OECA and OW with regional

perspective and assistance on 1) adverse effects from currently registered pesticides on ground water and surface water, 2) processes needed to avoid and mitigate adverse effects from currently registered pesticides, 3) attaining coordination at the state level among the agencies with water responsibilities.

Performance Expectations for Regions:

FQPA/SAI. In FY 04 the Regions will continue to meet their targets for creating and fostering partnerships with minor crop commodity groups to facilitate transition away from higher risk pesticides. In FY 04 they will, with headquarters, refine indicators to quantify environmental benefits to transition. To achieve these expectations, the regions will continue efforts to:

Become knowledgeable on FQPA issues, including the most vulnerable chemical classes and chemicals, and be well informed on the agricultural groups that are well organized to manage FQPA transition issues and are closely linked to USDA and O.P.

Build partnerships with targeted producers, commodity groups and other agricultural stakeholders to manage transition needs created or likely to be created by O. P. reregistration decisions, thereby reducing risk from agricultural pesticides.

Coordinate with USDA Regional Pest Management Centers in carrying out their joint missions, focus on partnership development, and capture and share lessons learned particularly with respect to IPM and other methods of reduced pest management.

Provide routine feed-back to Headquarters O.P. on management issues and concerns especially as they relate to registration and re-registration of pesticides used on foods consumed by infants and children.

Worker Safety. By 2004 all Regions and States will be maintaining integrated pesticide worker safety programs at a “base level” of attainment, and there will be consistent national reporting of annual accomplishments for documenting successful implementation of pesticide worker safety programs. Regions must commit appropriate resources to oversight and evaluation of state pesticide worker safety programs. This includes:

- ▼ Negotiating clear commitments in annual cooperative agreements based on national guidance;
- ▼ Conducting an appropriate number of annual state visits to adequately monitor program, assure program coordination, and document program accomplishments;
- ▼ Conducting an appropriate number of annual oversight inspections to document inspection quality and consistency;
- ▼ Monitoring and/or participating in an appropriate number of applicator training and recertification programs to document training quality;

- ▼ Collecting and submitting annual state accomplishment reports that address national reporting criteria; and
- ▼ Conducting thorough and timely annual reviews to evaluate program effectiveness and assure cooperative agreement commitments and national program objectives are met. Regions should assure state accomplishment reports and regional reviews and are submitted to EPA Headquarters on time.

Follow Up to the National Assessment of the Worker Protection Program -

Regions must commit appropriate resources (personnel and travel dollars) to assure active participation and involvement in the activities that resulting from the National Assessment process. This includes participation in assessment workgroup projects and conference calls, and active involvement in pilot projects.

Certification and Training Assessment Group (CTAG) - Regions must commit appropriate resources (personnel and travel dollars) to assure active participation and involvement in the CTAG process.

State Plans - Regions must assure that all their States have updated, complying State Plans for Certification of Pesticide Applicators in place in accordance with 40 CFR Part 171. MOA reports should clearly document the Region's compliance with the regulatory requirements for maintaining updated State Plans, and should describe annual regional activities and accomplishments in this area.

Water Quality. Regions are expected to complete the assessments they agreed to in the last cycle of MOA discussions, of the high priority needs of the states and the region having to do with pesticides and water quality. These assessments identify high priority issues, how the regions will work with the states and tribes to help address the top issues, how the regions will affect coordination among the offices responsible for pesticide programs and those responsible for water programs at the regional level, methods the region will use to affect coordination among state and tribal level pesticide and water offices, assessment of what assistance HQ should provide to regions to help reach success in efforts to thus coordinate.

It was our expectation at the beginning of 02 that in 03 we would have reviewed these assessments from a national perspective, identified with the Regions several top priority areas that HQ could pursue and for the regions to be fully engaged in carrying out the actions they identified in 02, to assist with regional and state level coordination in addressing high priority water/pesticide issues in the field. At the present time, we do not seem to have progressed to the level anticipated by 03. 2003 should see completion of the above assessments and specific actions to implement identified assistance methods. Assuming success in that arena, the priority for 04 would be to continue with these coordination efforts with goals toward resolving identified cross media issues and demonstrating the value of cooperation, coordination, resource sharing etc.-- -- all leading to an ability to demonstrate we have made a positive difference in water quality itself or our ability

to address water quality issues in a coordinated and timely manner.